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Street-Robberies,

CONSIDER'D:

THE REASON

Of their being so FREQUENT,
WITH

Probable MEANS to PREVENT 'em.

To which is added,

THREE SHORT TREATISES;

I. A Warning for Travellers: With Rules to know a Highwayman; and Instructions how to behave upon the Occasion.

II. Observations on House-breakers: How to prevent a Tenement from being broke open: With a Word of Advice concerning Servants.

III. A Caveat for Shop-keepers: With a Description of Shop-Lifts, how to know 'em, and how to prevent 'em: Also a Caution of delivering Goods: With the Relation of several Cheats practiced lately upon the Publick.

Written by a Converted THIEF.

To which is prefix'd some Memoirs of his LIFE.

Set a Thief to Catch a Thief. a.

L O N D O N:

Printed for J. ROBERTS in Warwick Lane.

Price 1 s.

h. 134.

Street-Robberies
CONSIDERED.

THE
REASON

Of their being so Frequent
WITNESSES

Probable Means to prevent them
To which is added

THEIR
TREATISES.



I. A Warning for the Thief
to know a Highwayman
how to behave upon a Highway
II. Observations on Highway Robbers
prevent a Temptation from being
With a Word of Advice
III. A Counsel for the Thief
not of shop-lifting, how to behave
prevent the Thief from being
the Reason of the Thief's being
Public

Written by a Gentleman
To which is added a Form of the

See a Thief to Catch a Thief

LONDON:

Printed for J. Roberts in Strand
1724



Street-Robberies,

CONSIDER'D, &c.



S I have declared my self in the Title to be a convert-ed Thief, I think it will nor be amiss, first to give a short Account of my own Life; and then proceed to what I have undertaken. I shall use freedom in what I am about to write, being I am not afraid I shall be call'd to an Account for any of my past Pranks: Every one knows there is more than one Act of Grace within this twenty Years; and for the rest of my Gang, they are as cold as *Julius Caesar*, or the great *Scanderbeg*; I

might have said as Rotten too, for some of them were not over Sound, when alive, but the Gallows and the Sea have made an End of 'em all. That is, some were Hang'd, and some Transported.

WELL then! a Cheat I stand confess'd on Record, (though now I deal plainly) therefore shall conceal my Name, that my Neighbours may not find me out; for as Thievish as I have been, I have borne all Offices in the Parish where I dwell, even Church-warden, without cheating the Poor, and am at present, and have been these twenty Years, accounted one of the honestest Men in it. Therefore I have spoil'd one Proverb, *Once a Thief, and always a Thief*. But to proceed,

I THINK I have read in History, for now I Study Books as I formerly did Men, that *Alexander* the Great claim'd *Jupiter* for his Father; and I have also read that many other Great Men have had a great many Fathers; or rather, that a great many Great Men in History, could never tell their own Fathers, which is indeed my one Case: For even my good Mother could not inform me truly. But thus much I know of my Progenitors, my
poor

poor Mother going into a *Goldsmith's* Shop to purchase a Ring, by an odd Sort of a Mistake, I don't know how, but it seems she walk'd off with a whole String of them: But the ill-natur'd Fellow had her pursu'd, took her up, and in short was very troublesome; for notwithstanding my Mother stood stiff in her Innocence, yet the malicious Wretch forc'd her to take up a new Lodging in *Newgate*, pretending this was not her first Offence; and not having her Health there, she was obliged to take the Air an Hour or two at the *Old-Baily*; and tho' she declared her Aversion for her new Lodging, yet they forc'd her there again, though with this Promise, that she should very shortly take a farther Tour for a little good Air; and because it would be difficult for a weak Person to walk up *Holbourn Hill*, she should be carry'd, with a suitable Attendance to her Quality. She told them her Inclinations would rather carry her some other Road. But *Willi nilli*, she was inform'd she should go that Way and no other.

I'll leave every one to judge, if this was not enough to vex any Woman of Spirit in the World. " Are not you a-
" sham'd,

“ Iham’d, cry’d the poor Woman, to vex
 “ a Body so? as I hope to be say’d, I
 “ thought there was no harm in it; for
 “ by my Conscience, I only took the
 “ Rings to fit my Finger at more Lei-
 “ sure, for I was very much in haste,
 “ with an Intention to return the rest,
 “ and honestly pay for what I kept.”

But she might have swore her Eyes out of
 her Head, for the unbelieving Wretches
 did not mind what she said or swore.

WHEN my Mother found there was
 no good to be done with them, she e’en
 resolved to cast about to get out of their
 Clutches, not by breaking Prison, for
 Thieves thirty or forty Years ago were
 not so clever at that as *Shepherd*, of im-
 mortal Memory. She had at that Junc-
 ture the Misfortune of being a Maid,
 that is, I mean, not with Child, yet she
 had Money enough to Bribe a Jury of
 Matrons, that out of a good Conscience
 to prolong Life, swore she was Quick;
 but with this Caution, if she was not, to
 get one should use his honest Endeavours
 to save their Honour, for they found there
 was good Ground to work upon.

MY

My Mother at first practiced with the Ordinary, giving him to know, she had no Occasion for his Assistance in shoving her out of the World, but beg'd his Help to bring one into the World. But the good Man, either out of Conscience, or Dislike, utterly refus'd; telling her how heinous the Crime was she wou'd commit. But she answer'd him with the old Saying, *There cou'd be no Harm done, where there's a good Child got.* But neither her Rhetorick or Person had any Charms for him, though she told him plainly that for the Care he had taken of her Soul, her Body was at his Service. The good Domine denying her, she was almost at her Wits End, and it was near a Month before she had a Glimpse of Hope.

BUT some Pirates happening to stop at *Newgate*, in their Way to *Wapping*, took pity of my poor Mother, and being People of great Humanity, strove all they could to oblige her, and among them her Job was done, but she could never tell by who, for there was no less than eight of them, and they always paid their Compliments to my Mother in the Dark, for fear of

of being discover'd. But she was resolv'd to be sure of her Man, and therefore laid it upon them all, which occasioned some Words among my Fathers, and my Mother, as I said before, or should have said, being a passionate Woman, in the Heat of her Fury, wish'd my Fathers hang'd, which alas! came to pass; for before I came into the World, to rejoice my Fathers, they all lovingly swung together at *Execution-Dock*, without leaving any Provision for their Posthumous Offspring; Peace be with them !

HOWEVER, I was growing on to be a fine Child in my Mother's Belly, for I did so Jump and Caper in my Prison, within a Prison, that my Mother us'd to tell me afterwards, she always thought I should prove a stirring Babe, and a good Buftler in the World.

MY Mother now growing pretty near her Time, by the Prison Reckoning, tho' she was two Months behind hand in her own Account, made so many Friends to the *Goldsmith's* Wife, that out of Compassion, she good Woman got my Mother her Pardon. And in short, my Mother forsook her Tenement, though she paid
nothing

nothing for her Lodging, for the Keepers were very willing to be rid of her, for fear she shou'd lay the Child to some of them, as she often threaten'd in her Passion, when they wanted her to come down, as they call it. She had some Friends that supported her till she brought me into the World. There was Gossipings and Tattling (indeed I can't say Christening, for my Mother did not Care for unnecessary Expences, as she term'd 'em) But the Child had Dad's own Nose, and every Feature to a Tittle, to be sure.

BUT be it as it will, my Mother took a great Care of me, especially in my Education, only she did not let me Read or Write, for as she often told me, Learning was only to make People vain.

HOWEVER, since I found my Mother out as to that Particular, Shame so much overcame me, that I learn'd both to Read and Write, after I was sixteen Years old; and knowing my Mother never had given me a Christian Name, I was, like the *Anabaptists*, made a Christian, when I could Answer for my self.

B

I WAS

I WAS no sooner brought into this World to Breath freer Air, but my Mother thought me as great a Burthen to her as she did the Day before I was Born, therefore thought of many Stratagems to get rid of me, at least to procure something for my Support; for she own'd she had some small Affection for me. She got a Hand-Basket, into which, pretty late, she put my Worship, and ty'd me Decently to a Knocker of a Door in *Cornhill*, (for I was a Citizen born) and then stood aloof to see the Event.

IN a little Time, the Door was open'd, and I enter'd the House; but, it was suppos'd, not liking my Situation, I began to Whindle, and Tune my Pipes. When the Inhabitants understood what Sort of Guest they had got, they began to be weary of my Company; imagining, if I call'd for any thing (for it prov'd a Coffee-House) I should hardly pay'em. Upon which, they sent for the Constable and Churchwardens of the Parish, who maugre their wry Faces, were oblig'd to take Care of me. Upon the Bustle that was made, my Mother approach'd slyly, to understand what she knew before; and
when

when she was got among 'em she fell to abusing her self at no Rate, by calling the Mother of the Child, Barbarous Wretch! and Brute Beast! And many more elegant Names, as she inform'd me when I was grown up. In short, she said so much, that one of the Churchwardens took her aside, and being a very Compassionate Man, told her if she had a Mind to have me, I should prove a good Bargain, and immediately offer'd her ten Pounds upon the Nail, if she would take Care of my Education.

My Mother took some Time to determine, for fear she might be suspected; but at last she told them it was a pity so fine a Child should be turn'd upon the Parish, and having no Children of her own, she would accept their Offer; and take as much Care of me as if it were born of her own Body. So all Parties took Leave well pleas'd. The Churchwardens that they had got rid of a new Parishoner, and my Mother that she had Collard the Cole.

I GREW mightily in Growth and Grace, for my Mother told me the first Word I could speak plain was Bitch;

which Epithet I gave my Mother, with which she seem'd much pleas'd.

By that Time I had arriv'd at my tenth Year, I had made some Progress in the Nimming Art, and those that had the Care of my Education, told my Mother, there was no fear but I should make as good a Figure in the Business as the best of them.

I was full fourteen before I attempted any thing noble in the Science, as they Term it, and had a narrow Escape into the Bargain. A Fruit-Woman who had a Leathern Purse at her Side, and a great Basket of Fruit on her Head, set me a Longing, more at the Purse than the Fruit. I follow'd her through several Streets and Lanes without accomplishing my Intentions. At last, she put her Basket upon a Bulk, and Knock'd at a great House in *Crowtched-Fryars*. Now, thought I, is my Time. When she had done with the People of the House, the Door was shut, and she going to put the Basket on her Head, I drew near, and offer'd her my Assistance. But she cry'd no I thank you, Child, I can help my self. While both her Hands were employ'd, I
with

with my Knife, nimbly cut off her Pocket, and as nimbly ran off. But she soon observ'd what I had done ; cry'd out, Stop Thief ! Stop Thief ! and began to Hobble after me. Accordingly I was stop'd by a Drayman at the End of the Lane : But I fell down upon my Knees, and beg'd 'em to let me go, for I had only thrown down her Basket of Fruit, and the Woman would make me pay for 'em if she caught me, and I had not one Penny in the World. Zounds, you Dog, then, cry'd one of the Fellows, get away as fast as you can. I thought their Council so good, that I never stop'd till I came into *St. George's-Fields*, where I ventur'd to open my Purse ; and, to my no small Joy, found six and thirty Shillings, besides Half-pence.

THIS I thought too great a Booty to secure all to my self, therefore resolv'd to let my Mother have some, who really very much wanted it ; for she had marry'd a Soldier, who would often come Home and Plunder her of all, and not come again till his Pockets had not one Crofs to keep the Devil from dancing there.

WHEN

WHEN I came Home, I gave my Mother the Pouch, and eighteen Shillings in it, which very much rejoic'd her. Now, said she, thou art a good Child to take Care of thy poor Mother: Heaven will bless thee for it! But she was ravish'd, when I told her in what Manner I had compass'd it.

AFTER some Time, I told my Mother I would go and see if there was any Business stirring Abroad. Ay, do, said she, for there is always a Curse attends Idleness. I went out, though with no other Intention than to fill my Belly, for I had ever a good Stomach. I wander'd a pretty Way from Home, before I could light of a *Cook's* to my Mind; but at last I found one that pleas'd me; call'd for my Dinner, and stufft heartily. As was ty'd by the Teeth, a *Butcher* came in' and I soon found his Business was to Receive some Money from the Man of the House.

I CAST a Hawk's Eye at the Guineas on the Table, and my Chops water'd at 'em much; and at the same Time my Fingers itched to be better acquainted with 'em, though I despair'd of getting an Opportunity. But the Landlord being
call'd

call'd away in haste, threw down the Pen under the Table with his Elbow: And the *Butcher* stooping to take it up, I nimbly seiz'd one of the Guineas; slipp'd it down between my Shirt and my Skin, retir'd to my Post, and look'd as Demurely as a *Quaker* when the Spirit was expected to move him.

WHEN the *Butcher* had taken up the Pen, he set himself about writing a Discharge. But first counting the Money over, found there was a Guinea short of his Bill. He told his Money over and over again, in Hopes to make it Right; but I could have told him it was to no Purpose. But I ever hated *Butchers*; sure, said he, the Landlord has given me a Guinea short: Prithee call him, Child, said he, to me, (supposing I belong'd to the House, for I had no Hat on,) Yes, Sir, said I, the same Time the *Butcher* was looking under the Table to see if it had not been thrown down with the Pen; which gave an Opportunity of snatching another; and you may be assur'd I did not stay long enough for him to find the other that was *Lost*.

By

By good Fortune there was a Nine-pin Yard at the back of the House, which was a Thorough fare into a Lane, so off I got with my Booty, without paying for my Dinner, or looking behind me. I sunk one of the Pieces upon my Mother, and told her if she would get me some better Duds, I did not doubt but I should succeed in greater Matters. However, she excus'd her self for that Time, with a Promise, upon her Honour, the next Booty should be all put by to be at my Service.

THE Hope of this put me upon the Tenter of Invention, (not but I had Money enough to do the Job; but that I sav'd against a Rainy Day, as the People say.) I was but small in Person, though I had happily arriv'd to my thirteenth Year; so my Rogueries were the less suspected.

I COMMITTED several small Facts, not worth naming; however I had Business enough to enable my Mother to keep her Word with me, and I was Equipped genteely enough.

ONE.

ONE Day in my Rambling, I got in-
to *Smithfield*, though with little Hope of
getting Business, for there are Rogues ge-
nerally in every Degree. But I could
not help eying a Person of Quality that
was about buying eight fine *Flanders* Mares.
I was resolv'd to wait some Time to see
if any thing would start for my Advan-
tage. At last I found the Horses or Mares,
which you will, were sold for four hun-
dred Guineas, and the Nobleman order'd
a Person that was with him to take the
Horse-Courser and pay him.

I WATCHED narrowly where they
went, and followed them up Stairs at a
neighbouring Tavern, went boldly after
them into the Room, and confidently ask'd
them what they would please to Drink.
When I had received the Word of Com-
mand, I ran down to the Bar, and in-
form'd the Man of the House, that my
Master, and the Person that was with
him, had some private Business, would
take them up some Time, so desired none
might enter the Room but my self.

I CARRY'D every thing they wanted
with as much Dexterity as if I had never
C been

been out of the hearing of the Bar-bell; but with some Concern, I should not pay my self for Waiting; or be paid in a Coin that would not run Currant: And my Hopes were quite dead, when I found nothing but Paper stirring for Payment. therefore wisely thought of walking off while I was well: But just as I was going to put my Thoughts in Execution, the Gentleman call'd to me, bid me go down to my Master, and ask him if he could Change a Bank Bill of seventy Pound. I went and did as I was commanded; but the Landlord told me he had not so much ready Money in the House, for he had that Morning paid his Wine Merchant, however he would send and get it done immediately. I went up, and told them Word for Word, what was said. Here, you Dog, said the Gentleman, desire your Master to make haste. Ay, thought I to my self, if my Master won't, his Man will.

WHEN I came to the Bar, I told the Landlord my Master would have him to send one of his Drawers along with me to get the Money for the Note. This I did for fear of being examin'd, if I went alone. I bid the Drawer make haste, for
I was

I was to go to *Cornhil* with some of the Money. So away we went; and I could hear the Landlord say as I went out, That's a sharp Rogue, I warrant him.

WE soon got to the *Goldsmith's*, and I as soon finger'd the Money. When I had pocketed it, I ask'd the Drawer if he would go along with me to *Stock's-Market*, or stay there till I came back. Neither, said he, for if I should be out so long, my Master would break my Bones. Be so kind then, said I, to tell my Master and the Gentleman, that I am gone to pay the Money where they order'd me, and will be back immediately. Very well, returned the Drawer.

IT is not to be supposed that I loiter'd much, neither did I think my self Safe till I got to *Ratcliff Cross*, where I took some Refreshment; then made to the Isle of Dogs to Review my Cash, (for I did not think it proper even to look upon it in the House where I Dined, for fear of being suspected) when I came there, I secured the best part of my Booty in the Wasteband of my Breeches, for I did not think fit to let my Mother know the bottom of my Days Work.

I must own tho' Young, a qualm of Conscience came over me for my Tricks, and the first Thing I repented off, was, the Robbing the poor Fruit Woman; therefore I resolv'd with my self to make it my Business to find her out, and make her Restitution.

MY first Days search was to no purpose, but the second Day I met with her in *Mark-Lane*, at an *Apothecary's*, selling some Fruit: I bargain'd with her for a Basket of Strawberries, and order'd her to follow me; coming into the *Navy-Office*, I found the Coast clear, and proper for my Purpose. Good Woman said I, was not you Rob'd some time since, of such a Sum of Money, yes Sir, said the Woman, which has almost broke my Heart.

THE Person that Rob'd you said I, was my own Brother, and therefore I am come to make you Satisfaction, here is a couple of Guineas for you, take it, and be more watchfull for the Future.

THE poor Woman was mightily overjoy'd, and gave me as many Blessings, as no doubt she had formerly Curses.

SOME

SOME time after this, I went to the Court end of the Town, to seek an opportunity; but I found there was too much cunning to let a raw Rogue Bite them. Coming back into *St. Paul's Church-Yard*, I took notice of a Gentleman that was purchasing some Books; I Busied my self about, looking here and there, till I perceiv'd the Gentleman had Paid for them, and the Sum I well Remember'd was Nine Pound Ten Shillings and Sixpence, at the same Time ordering them to be sent Home that Evening.

THE Gentleman went out, and I followed him close at the Heels, till he went into a House in *Fetter-Lane*; I then inform'd my self of a Cocker, who liv'd in that House; I began then to consider the Gentleman very probably might not be Master of that House. But I took this Method to clear my Doubts. I went and knock'd boldly at the Door, and the Purchaser of the Books open'd it himself; I ask'd him if Mr. such a one did not live there, yes Child reply'd the Gentleman, I am the Person; what is thy Business: Sir, said I, I am inform'd you have occasion for a Servant, which if you do, I
can

can be very well Recommended. Not I Boy, return'd the Gentleman, somebody has misinform'd thee. I seem'd to be very much concern'd, but did not care for staying too long; so beg'd his Pardon for the Trouble I had given him, and took my Leave.

I made what haste I could to the *Book-sellers*, and told him I came from such a Gentleman's in *Fetter-Lane*, by the same Token he paid such a Sum of Money for them. There was no scruple made of the Delivery; so I carry'd my Prize to *Lincolns-Inn Back-Gate*, where I knew dwelt a *Bookseller* that us'd to lend Money on Books; I told him a Gentleman of *Lincolns Inn*, desir'd to have Eight Pounds on those Books, for a Month; he look'd them over, but would lend no more than Six Pound. I told him that I would take that, and if the Person would not agree, I would return in half an Hour, and bring him the Money again; well do so then said he, but Write your Name on a Paper, that I may put it in the Parcel when you come or fend for them before the Time is expired. I'll make my Mark Sir, said I, but I can't Write. What a Shame it is said he, that such a likely young Man as you

you are, should be brought up in such an ignorant Manner; I must own this Reproach Stung me very much, and from that very Moment I intended to Learn.

I took my leave and went Home, and that very Evening apply'd my self to a Person, who agreed with me for Ten Pounds to learn me to Write and Read in less than Six Months; half the Money down, and half to be Paid at the end of the Time appointed; in that time I follow'd my *Horn-book*, *Primmer*, *Testament* and *Bible* so well, that I might have set up for a *Welch Parson*, or at least a *Parson in Wales*; and could Write a tolerable Hand.

As to my Calling in all that Time, it lay very much neglected, and I was often chid by my Mother, for neglecting my Business. But I now began to think my self my own Master, and little Regarded what she said to me; besides my Scholarship I thought had put me a Hole above *Obadiab*. However, I did not find my Learning would get me a Dinner, therefore was oblig'd to follow my Trade whether I would or no.

COMING Home one Night with a considerable Booty, which I inteded to give the Major Part to my Mother. I soon found she was gone out with some Gentleman of the Staff, (no Reflection on the *Bickerstaffs*, or the *Wagstaffs*) but much against her Will it prov'd. It seems she had been a little too Busy with a Gentleman's Gold Watch, and taking Time by the Forelock, ran away with it; but going to Dispose of it, the *Goldsmith* suspecting her, secured her; put an Advertisement in the News Papers, and the right Owner soon prov'd it down right Thieving.

My poor Mother was oblig'd to see what House-keeping they kept at the Tenement where I was got; And the ensuing Sessions she was advis'd to lay aside all Thoughts of this World, and look a Squint on the next. She beg'd their Pardon, and told them Civilly she had no Thoughts that Way; but for all that, they took an Occasion to carry her to *St. Tyburn*, where she made a very comfortable End.

I was

I was now left to my self, but I soon got into a very good new acquaintance, viz. *Thieves, Highwaymen, Shoplifters, House-breakers and Street-Robbers*; and in short, got every way a very good Reputation among them. I was advis'd with, in every important Affair; and my advice, as well as an helping Hand, generally prov'd Successfull, which brought me much Money, as well as Reputation; for I hated Idleness, and I ever thought upon that old Saying, *the Waging Hand gets a Penny.*

By this time, like other Fashionable Gentlemen of this Age; I began to keep, and one or other, I had the clever'st *Mauks* in Town, a *Mort* that understood the Lay as well as any that ever went up *Holborn-Hill*, and when ever I found Business slack, it was but turning Madam out, and she was shure to bring home something or other that was pretty. We liv'd together happily several Years, and went on Comfortably in our Business without Molestation.

BUT one Summer in Particular, I found Trading very bad in Town, for
D
all

all the World had followed the Queen to the Bath. I had as good an Inclination to go as the rest of them, but *the Cole was not in Clie*; but Madam inform'd me, if I would be conformable, she did not fear supplying me; I gave her my Word I would. Why then said she, there's an old Rich *Quaker*, a Banker in the City, has offer'd me Mountains, if I'll grant him the Favour, but my Honesty and Honour, with the dislike of his Person won't let me comply. But with your leave I'll seem to Consent, and I warrant we'll prove too hard for the Spirit, and make his Purse pay for the Sins of the Flesh: I gave my Consent, and matters were so well order'd, that a Meeting was agreed on for the succeeding Day; she let him know that her Husband (meaning my Worship, who by the by, had never troubled the Parson) was out of Town, and his Barbarity had made her shake off all the ties of Duty; therefore she would comply on these Conditions; Fifty Pound and all Secrecy, but the last Insinuation might have been left out; his Hipocrisiy was sufficient to make him Secret. Accordingly he came punctual to his Time, as generally Whoremasters do.

A good

A good Supper was provided, and Wine in abundance, and my Mort had by my Advice, put a small Dose of *Opi-um* into a particular Bottle, which the Maid (who was let into the Secret,) took care to ply the *Quaker* with; till at last *Maugre* his violent Love; he fell fast asleep in his Chair; upon this, I came in and try'd to Wake him, but to no purpose; however, I turn'd Valet for once; Strip'd him of all his Cloaths, and put him to Bed that he might not catch Cold.

I examined his Cloths, and found a Gold Watch, Seventy Guineas in Money, and a Bank Note of Eighty-five Pound, which I went that Moment and Receiv'd at his own Shop: When this was done, I order'd my Madam to tell him when he Wak'd, that I had come Home unexpectedly, found 'em in Bed together, lock'd 'em in, and was gone for Officers to secure him.

I WAITED, till he wak'd, in the next Room, but had much to do to contain my self from Laughing at his Manner of expressing his Fright, when he understood what a Condition he was in. I

went softly down Stairs, and stay'd some Time. I then ran up again, with some of my Accomplices, and a brace of Pistols in my Hand. When I enter'd the Chamber, the Spirit so much overcame him at the Sight of me, that he fell down into a Swoon. The Condition he was in could hardly restrain me from Laughter; for I had secur'd his Cloaths, and to prevent his catching Cold, he had pinn'd a Blanket round him, and put an old Suit of my Madam's Headcloaths on, instead of his Perriwig.

WHEN we had brought him to Life, he seem'd to have lost his Understanding with his Fright; for he utter'd nothing but incoherent Speeches. However, I storm'd so much about his Ears, that seem'd to waken a small Part of his Senses. He fell down upon his Knees, and told me, I should have all he had in his Pockets, if I would mitigate my Rage, and not let his Disgrace be publish'd; for it would be the Death of him.

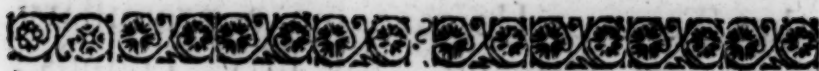
I LET him know that his Offers was nothing more than what I had in my Power already; and at the same Time made a Sign to my pretended Constable to
Seize

Seize him ; which he seeing, we came to other Terms. He gave me a promissary Note, on Demand, for fifty Pounds ; with which he seem'd satisfy'd ; and dismiss'd him, without havig one Favour for his Money : Which I must own was a little Barbarous. The next Day I sent a Person with the Note, and the Money was paid without any Hesitation.

IN a few Days after this Affair, I hir'd a Chariot and Six, with several of my Accomplices for Servants, and took upon me the Title of *John* — Esq; In my Journey, I compos'd a short Canting Vocabulary, for I hated Idleness : This Language is spoke generally among Gentlemen Collectors of the Highway, and in most Branches of those Persons born under *Mercury*.

AND I shall give this by way of Advice before I begin, whenever any Person hears such a Language, Speech, or Cant ; or what you please to call it, let them take Care of the Speaker ; for they may depend on't they are certainly of the *Nimming Clan*, and therefore to be avoided.

THE



THE
Canting Language, &c.

A

A Bram, *Naked.*
A Abram Cove, *a poor House.*
Antem, *a Church.*
Autem Mort, *a Wife of the Left Hand.*

B

Ba Cheat, *a Sheep.*
Belly Cheat, *Apron.*
Betty, *a Picklock.*
Boman-Prig, *a cleaver Thief.*
Boufe, *Drink.*
Boufeing-Ken, *Alehouse.*
Bongy, *Drunk.*
Bien Whids, *good Words.*
Bing, *Go.*
Bing, *Avast, Go quick.*
Bube, *Pox.*
Buff, *Dog.*
Bubble-Buff, *Bailiff.*

Cuffin,

C.

Cuffin, *a Man.*
Cuffin Queere, *Justice of Peace.*
Cramprings, *Shackles.*
Collar the Cole, *Lay hold on the Money.*
Couch a Porker, *Go to Bed.*
Cole, *Money.*
Comission, *a Shirt.*
Cut Queer Whids, *to Scold.*
Cacklers, *Poultry.*
Cly the Jerk, *to be whipt.*
Clapper Dudgeon, *a Beggar born.*
Clie, *a Pocket.*
Cull, *a Silly Fellow.*
Chive, *a Knife.*

D.

Diddle, *Geneva.*
Dads, *an old Man.*
Darbies, *Iron.*
Duds, *Cloaths.*
Doxie, *Whore.*
Darkman, *Watchman.*
Dock, *to cut.*

E.

Elf, *little.*
Earnest, *Share.*
Eves, *Hen-Roosts.*
Filch, *Steal.*

Famms,

Famms, *Hands.*
Famble, *Ring.*
Flag, *a Great,*
Fib, *to beat.*
Fog, *Smoak.*
Fencer, *Receiver of stolen Goods.*

G.

Glim, *Light.*
Gage, *Exciseman.*
Grunt, *a Hog.*
Gilt, *a Pick-lock.*
Grub, *Provender.*

H.

Harmenbeck, *Constable.*
Hum, *Strong.*
Hankins, *Breeches.*
Hic, *Booby.*
Hog, *a Shilling.*

J.

Joseph, *Cloak.*
Jarke, *a Seal*
Jem, *Ring.*
Jet, *Lawyer.*

K.

Kick, *Sixpence.*
Kit, *Dancing-Master.*

Kin,

Kin, a Thief.

L.

Lap, Spoon-meat.
Leake, Welshman.
Latch, let in.
Leap, all safe.

M.

Mill, to beat.
Mish, a Smock.
Make, Halfpenny.
Muns, the Face.
Mauks, a Whore.
Mundungus, sad Stuff.

N.

Nab, a Hat.
Nimming, stealing.
Nip, to bite.
Nap, an Arrest.
Nan, a Maid of the House.

O.

Ofs Chives, Bone handled Knives.
Otter, a Sailor.

P.

Popps, Pistols.

E

Prancers,

Prancers, *Horses.*
 Peak, *Lace.*
 Peter, *Portmantua.*
 Plant the Whids, *take Care what you say.*

R.

Rubbs, *hard Shifts.*
 Rumbo Ken, *Pawn-Brokers.*
 Rum Mort, *fine Woman.*

S.

Stampers, *Boots.*
 Scour, *get off.*
 Scum, *I have enough.*
 Snafflers, *Highwaymen.*
 Snip, *a Cheat.*
 Snap, *I take you.*
 Snout, *a Hogshhead.*
 Snivel, *one in Distress.*
 Snic, *to cut.*
 Smeer, *a Painter.*
 Smable, *taken.*

T.

Tout, *take heed.*
 Tip, *give.*
 Tap, *Knocker of a Door.*
 Trine, *Gallows or Tyburn.*
 Tit, *a Horse.*
 Tripe, *the Belly.*
 Tie, *Trust.*

Tattle,

Tattle, *Watch.*
Tom Pat, *a Parson.*

W.

Win, *a Penny.*
Web, *Cloth.*
Wibble, *sad Drink.*
Wobble, *to boil.*

Y.

Yarm, *Milk.*
Yest, *a Day ago.*
Yelp, *a Cryer.*
Yam, *to eat.*

Z.

Zad, *crooked.*
Zouch, *an ungenteeled Man.*
Znees, *Frost.*

&c.

&c. *a Bookseller.*

WHEN we came within five Miles of
Bath, where we din'd, an Adventure hap-
pen'd to my Advantage, which was fi-
nish'd without my Knowledge.

IN the same Inn was a Chariot, that had a Portmantua behind it, which my Attendance observing, thought it would look as well behind mine; and one of my Brother Rogues being formerly a Horse-Courser, I imagin'd it wou'd be too great a Luggage for the Gentleman's Horses; for he was bound to *London*, out of Humanity eas'd 'em of the Load.

WHEN they had finish'd the Affair, I was inform'd of their Adventure, therefore I thought it highly necessary to make but a short Stay there. So, while the other Company was at Dinner, we set on our Journey, and arriv'd at *Bath* in two Hours.

I ORDER'D the Portmantua into my Bed-Chamber, where my Impatience wou'd not rest till I had examin'd the Contents, therefore was forc'd to commit Burglary on the Locks. I thought the Booty was but indifferent, and hardly worth the Carriage, when I found nothing but one Suit of Cloaths, half a Dozen Shirts, and a couple of Rings: But examining the Fobs of the Breeches, I found a Bank Note of six hundred and thirty Pounds,

Pounds. I did not let my Company into that Affair, only told 'em of the other Things, which I gave among 'em, on Condition Care should be taken they were not expos'd in *Bath*, which Direction was follow'd, and a Bonfire made of the Portmantua in my Room, for fear it might be a Means of a Discovery by some Accident.

I TOLD my Attendance I had committed a very great Oversight, and left the major Part of the Money in my 'Scrutore, which was to be the Auxillaries of our Expedition, and was resolv'd to take Post that very Evening: But my Intent was to get to Town to secure my Bank Note.

THE next Morning I had the Satisfaction of passing by the Chariot that should have had the Portmantua behind it: I observ'd a Gentleman and Lady in it that laugh'd so loud, as if they knew nothing of their Loss, which, I am apt to believe, they did not; for it's possible the Servants, who rode on Horseback, did not care to let their Master know his Loss till they arrived in Town; neither was it impossible but even themselves might not have found

found it out, for the Servants of great Men are generally careless enough.

I GOT snug to Town the same Day, receiv'd the Money, and return'd, and was pleas'd to meet the same Chariot within fifteen Miles of *London*. But I had got upon a damn'd Horse, something like the *Quaker's* that had but two Faults; the first was, that he was very difficult to be caught, and when caught, not worth one T---d: So I was oblig'd to stay all Night within twenty Miles of *London*, and wait for the *Bath* Coach; which, by good Fortune, came, and just Room for my Worship.

THERE was a Sea Captain in the Vehicle that told so many Lies, that he abus'd even the Privilege of Travellers, and shock'd me so very much, that I had not a Word to say for my self, for I hate a Lyar as I hate a Thief. He let us understand that he had a great deal of Money about him, yet hid so cunningly, he defy'd the Devil to find it out.

THIS Speech alarm'd me, and put me on my Mettle to be even with the Captain,

tain, for he had gone his Game with me very much upon my Taciturnity.

I WATCH'D him very narrowly, but was never the wiser till Night, when looking thro' a Chink of the Door, I observ'd he put his Boots under his Head. I then concluded there his Treasure was secured. But how to get them was the Difficulty. I plagued my Brain a great while, e'er I could find one Project that seem'd to favour my Design. I neither cou'd nor wou'd once think of Rest, but walk'd softly about my Chamber, passing several Hours, and, at last, jump'd to try the following Experiment.

IN the Inn was two Carts loaded with Hay; I clapt a Bit of Candle in my Shoe, and went down Stairs: I always carry'd a Tinder-Box in my Pocket, and in the Necessary-House I struck a Light, and maugre the many People in the Yard, (for it was Day-break) thrust it among the Hay, unpereiv'd by any one, and got cleanly into my Room again, waiting the Event with as much Eagerness as a Bailiff does the bolting out of a poor Debtor, when he has a Warrant against him.

IN

IN a very little time, I was saluted with the Noise of Fire! Fire! which was as pleasing to my Ears, as the Sight of *England* is to the Eyes of a Sailor after a long Voyage.

My Captain was one of the first alarm'd at the Cry, and ran down half naked. He was no sooner out, but I was in, seiz'd hold of the precious Boots, and was down almost as soon as he. The Boots I had hid under my Gown; and when I had cautiously buſtled about, and taken Care to shew my self, retir'd to the Necessary-House, where, with my Knife, I cut the Boots to Pieces, and found the Money lodged in the Heels, which was made hollow on Purpose.

I DID not stay to see if my Money was good, only ty'd it to the Tale of my Shirt, threw the Boots into the House of Office, and came among the Crowd, who had prevented the Fire's taking head, by smothering it with Blankets, which they had taken off of the Beds.

SOME cry'd, the Hay was fir'd with Lightning, tho' we had no Thunder yet;
others

others said it took Fire of it self, as it wou'd sometimes do after Rain in hot Weather. I cou'd have unriddled the Mystery, but was resolv'd not to make them as wise as my self.

I LET the Captain go up first out of Complaisance: But I was close at his Heels, and got into my own Room, listening to hear the missing of the Boots. But in a little time I heard the Captain cry out strangely, *my Boots! my Boots! oh my Boots!*

BY this time I had got my Cloaths on, and was going down Stairs just as the Captain came running out of his Room, in his Passion, calling for his Boots. Sir, (said I) don't be in such a Passion about your Boots; the Hostler will bring them presently. Zounds, don't tell me of the Hostler, cry'd the Captain, my Boots are taken from under my Head, with two hundred Guineas.

THE House was soon alarm'd, and as much Noise made about the Boots, as about the Fire. The Captain swore the House shou'd make good his Loss, and those that fetch'd the Blankets to quench
F the

the Fire had stol'n his Boots, which was fix'd upon the Chamberlain. In short, the Coach was ready, and no Boots, and the Captain was for having the whole House before the Justice. He staid so long about it, that the Passengers, as well as the Coachman, were for going without him.

ONE of them was for making up the Captain's Fare to the Coachman, which, at last, was agreed among us all. And the poor Captain was left to wrangle it out with the People of the House. And a Week afterwards I saw him at *Bath*; where he inform'd me the Justice was as great a R--gue as the Inn-keeper and his Servants, for as the Boots were not given to the care of any Body, the Justice said no one was oblig'd to answer for them.

OUR Success did not answer the Expectation of my Attendance; for, to speak the Truth, I was unwilling to dabble too much, considering how dangerously I had dipt already. We pick'd up a bare Living, and that was all. So near the End of the Season I sent my Retinue home, out of Humour, you may be sure, at their
ill

ill Success, and some hard Reflections on my own Person.

I INTENDED to take a Tour round the Country alone, resolving to attempt nothing, unless it came fairly in my Way, and I could not get over it.

MY first Journey was to *Bristol*, where being to see a Play, I met with some Company that prov'd to be Sharpers; for, after Supper, we fell to Gaming, and I was strip'd of my last Guinea of twenty, for I had sent the rest of my Money home in my Trunk by the Carrier.

I WAS an utter Stranger in the Country, therefore my Loss something troubled me, and I was obliged to sell my Pistols to get my Horse out of the Stable, and was obliged to mount with only fourteen Pence in my Pocket. I rode pensively along, cursing Gaming, and the Inventors of them; but my Curses did me no good. I rode near twenty Miles before I thought how I should get Money to carry me and my Horse home; and I believe the poor Beast stood in as much need of a Dinner as my self, and fourteen Pence would go but little way.

I AT last invented this Stratagem. (First, taking a small Refreshment, which consum'd my whole Stock) just before it was Dusk, in a convenient Place, I got off my Horse, pull'd off my Breeches, and threw them away ; mounted, and rode into one of the noted Inns in *Taunton* ; gave the Hostler my Horse, and call'd for a Room, my Great Coat preventing my bare Back-side from being seen.

As soon as I had got into my Room where I was to lye, I bespoke a handsome Supper, and drank plentifully with my Landlord, who I had resolv'd should pay the Reckoning. I went to Bed, and slept soundly, without dreaming how I should get another Pair of Breeches. When I got up in the Morning, I began to make as much Noise for my Breeches, as the Captain had formerly done for his Boots. Zounds ! said I ! Where's my Breeches ? Where's my Breeches ? I soon made the whole House know the Loss of my Breeches.

THEY all seem'd very much amaz'd, as well they might, especially my good Landlord. Sir, said he, are you sure you

you have lost them? Lost! I cry'd, in a Passion, I don't know, but they are not to be found.

A STRICT Search was made to no Purpose; and the Landlord scratched his Head, asking me once more if I was sure I had lost them. Why, and be Pox'd, t'ye, said I, can't you see if I have any on? Do you imagine I came here without Breeches? No, Sir, reply'd the Landlord, but its very odd. The poor Chamberlain was suspected here too, who by Chance was but a new Comer.

IN short, I made such a Stir, that my Landlord began to capitulate, desiring to make it up, that it might not prejudice his House. S'blood, said I, don't tell me of your House; What must I do for my Breeches and my Money? As for my Watch, it was but an indifferent one, and the Loss I don't Value. Pray, Sir, said the Landlord, what Money had you in your Breeches? Nay, no great Sum, said I, only five Guineas and some Silver. Why, you know, said the Landlord, its very hard upon me; therefore I hope three Guineas, and a Pair of Breeches of mine, with your Reckoning, will satisfie you,

you, for the Rogue of a Chamberlain will confess nothing; and tho' I am convinc'd he must have taken your Breeches, yet I'll turn him away without any Punishment of the Law, or any Bustle about it, for fear the Story making a Noise, may prejudice my House; therefore I hope you'll be so good not to mention this Story. Upon your Account, said I, I shall hold my Tongue, tho' I am a Sufferer.

WHEN I arriv'd at *London*, I was very much applauded by my Associates; but I consider'd that Praises seldom fill'd the Belly, or the Purse. I found my Left-handed Wife grew so pert upon her being so serviceable to me, that I had seldom a quiet Hour. Nothing wou'd serve her but Marriage; and tho' I told her it was unreasonable for a Man to buy the Fruit after he had robb'd the Orchard, she wou'd hear of nothing but Matrimony, a Wedding Ring, and the Priest. She said we had Money enough now to live handsomely and honest, without venturing our Necks and Reputation: And when I told her the Priest had no Business with us but at the Cart, and no other Ring ought to be Thought of but that under the Left Ear, she protested she wou'd peach, if I did

did not marry her in a Fortnight ; which startled me so very much, that I gave her my Promise to comply with her in that time, tho' I had no such Intention.

A FEW Days after this, I laid my Fingers upon a Bank Note of a Person's counterfeiting ; and sending my Mauks to receive the *Cole*, she was stop'd, and the same Day we had both the Fortune to visit *Newgate*.

As I had Money at Command, we had a handsome Room allow'd us, and very comfortably lay together. My Gentlewoman still dun'd me in my Ears about the Wedlock Affair, and told me moreover, if I did not finish the Jobb, before the Tryal, she wou'd take Care *Tyburn* shou'd be my Wife : And tho' perhaps many a good Man would hang himself to be rid of his Wedlock, if his Thoughts of another World did not prevent it, yet I thought it the best way to marry her, and take of her Evidence. Which I perform'd in *Newgate*, with the Assistance of one of the Keepers.

WHEN our Tryal came on, we got clear with a wet Finger, as the Folks say.
But

But my Wife got such a violent Distemper in the Prison; that our Wedlock Bonds were broke in less than a Quarter of a Year.

UPON her Death-bed, she spoke so movingly of the Life we had led, that my Conscience received several Wounds, which were never heal'd till I entirely left off my vile Courses; and tho' my Goods were ill got, yet Heaven prosper'd me in an honest Undertaking; and it has been the Business of my Life for upwards of twenty Years, as near as I could, to make Restitution for all my Rogueries. I now live honestly, and thank Heaven that has put me above Want.

I SHALL now proceed to what I have promis'd in my Title, and I hope what I shall lay down may prove of Use to my Country. But I hope my Readers won't take it ill if I say, before I begin, that the *Beggars Opera*, in my Opinion, has been of Prejudice to the Publick. Roguery there is set in such an amiable Light, that vulgar Minds are dazzled with it; and the Author, I think, is punishable for not punishing the Persons in his Drama according to their Desert. I think the

Poeta

Poeta Licentia very much abused, and, like a bad Statesman, has run too great a Length.

Street Robberies Consider'd.

I SHALL Consider consifely in the ensuing Pages, what Methods in my Judgment, and Experience in the Facts themselves; how to prevent this present Pest of *Street-Robbers*, in the Capital of the Kingdom: At present a Man is not safe in going about his necessary Affairs, even in the Day Time, for several Robberies have been Committed in the face of the Sun; and tho' Numbers have been taken off every Sessions, yet these Mercu-rial Gentlemen rather Increase than Diminish.

BUT first let us Consider in all Probability; the Actors in these Scenes of Roguery, and I hope the Honest part of the Soldiery will forgive me, if I think we have many Incorporated in their Companies as fit for the *Tripple Tree*, as any that have Grac'd that Structure a great while. These are my Reasons for suspecting them; some of them (God forbid

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I should

I should say all) are known to be both Idle, and Lazy, having no Employment to follow, their Time hangs upon their Hands; and as Ignorance is said to be the Mother of Devotion, so Idleness may be more Justly said to be the Mother of Mischief, and their Morals are generally of too little Strength to hinder them in their evil Actions.

ONE way to prevent this growing Evil, is for every Soldier to be quarter'd in some Publick House of Entertainment, and not to receive the Money from those Houses to provide them a Lodging elsewhere, which is their constant Custom. Their Landlords then might have an Eye upon their Actions, and by coming Home at their usual Hour of retiring, there could be no Suspicion laid upon them: For those who have Families, their Numbers, I believe are so small, that the Serjeant and Corporal of each Company might, with a little Care, give a good Account of them. Their Pay is something better than it has been, therefore, with frugal Management, they may support themselves, without following ill Courses, or running in Debt.

EN-

ENQUIRY ought to be made concerning those that go better dress'd than their Stations will admit; for a Soldier's Pay will hardly allow them to wear Silver handled Sword, ruffled Shirts, and tie Wigs. You seldom meet a Soldier in the Street without a Female Companion, whose Understandings and Morals are generally of an equal Size; and, in my Opinion, the Vices of Drinking and Whoring are not all they are guilty of.

LET him take the Cap that thinks it fits his Head; I intend no Harm to any one, if every Body will reform one, as I have done, *Newgate* would prove a Place ill inhabited, and the Keepers would be oblig'd to seek some other Employment.

I MUST confess, the Soldiers have too often Criminal Means of getting many Things far above their Station, without incurring the Law, Thanks to some Female Profligates. However, those Correspondencies out to be enquir'd into, for, besides their being Cousin Germans to the Crimes I am treating of, many unforeseen Evils arise as hurtful as the other.

I HAD once the Curiosity to ask a Soldier, that was smartly dress'd, one that I had some Knowledge of, Whether he had any Trade? If you'll give me your Reason for asking the Question, reply'd the Fellow, I'll answer you. Because, said I, I am assur'd, your Pay will not afford you such Apparel. Why, to be frank with you, return'd the Spark, such a Woman, naming one I knew, gives me a Pension to do her Drudgery. If those abandon'd Females would but consider these Fellows have not Honour enough to conceal their Shame, sure they would have a little more Regard for their Fame.

ONE thing that increaseth the Number of our Town Thieves, is to see the Criminals go to Execution as neat and trim, as if they were going to a Wedding. G--d D--mn, says one Rogue to another, *Jack* Such-a-one made a clever Figure when he went to *Tyburn* thr other Day, and died bravely, hard, like a Cock.

IN my Opinion Criminals, after Condemnation, should mind nothing but the Care of their Souls, and put in Places where they may feel Compunction. I
don't

don't mean in filthy Places, and to be tortur'd, I mean in Places where the Day should never peep in, nor no Light but a gloomy Lamp : No Persons to come near them, but those that had immediate Business, and those not to stay. But, instead of that, I have known poor Wretches that have not seen a sober Moment from the Time of their Sentence to the Day of their Execution.

IN *Spain* and *Portugal* all Criminals are dress'd like Inhabitants of the Infernal Regions when they are carry'd to Execution, no Matter what their Crimes have been : Which produces in the Minds of the Spectators a Horror suitable to the Occasion, and perhaps may be a chief Reason why they have such a small Number of Criminals, especially Thieves.

I KNOW I shall be tax'd with Barbarity, when I say, in my Opinion, our Punishments are too mild. Hanging is the only Execution for Crimes of the blackest Dye for Male Criminals, which are certainly the greatest Number.

TRAYTORS, it's true, are quarter'd,
and Women are burnt for Coining and
Murder,

Murder, but they are strangled first, which is but reasonable in the first Crime, tho' a very pernicious one. But in the Case of Murder, both Male and Female should be burnt alive. The Fear of such dreadful Punishments would correct the vicious Minds, and make them less Criminal, in spite of themselves. But to go on.

ANOTHER sort of People we may very reasonably suspect to have a Character in this Scene of Roguery, are those that have no visible Means of a Livelihood; I shall take the Confidence to put down Gamesters among this sort of Cattle, tho' they may prove a more polite sort of Robbers, and, in some respects, more hurtful than those we are treating of; for though indeed they do not put Persons in fear of their Lives, yet they too often make their Victims incapable of supporting Life, by ruining their whole Fortunes at once, which too frequently drives them to commence Thieves for a dangerous and precarious Livelihood. But this is a Vice too many People of Condition enter into, which I could heartily wish were otherwise: And, in my Opinion, those that have Fortunes above want, are more to blame than those that, thro' the Prejudice of
of

of Education, a habitual Idleness, or Necessity, have taken up the pernicious Vice.

WE have many Instances, even in the Rank of Quality, whose Fortunes have been ruin'd by it. What a prodigious thing it is, that a cast of a Die, or the turn of a Card, shall give another Man a Title to his Neighbour's Estate! Nay, I have known some Men of Honour that have lost great Sums upon Tick; and, tho' the Law is against it, have paid it punctually, when their Shoemaker, Taylor, and many other lawful Debtors, must come forty times for their Money, and be reckon'd impertinent to demand it.

I MUST own, when Gaming is kept within the Bounds of an innocent Diversion, for Recreation, and to unbend the Mind, and does not come up to Covetousness or Passion, no one can call it a Crime. Yet I have known People to sit down to Cards and Dice with design only to divert themselves, have, by their ill Fortune, forgot their first Intentions, and plung'd themselves into a Sea of Passions that has drowned their Reason, which has ended with Sorrow, Repentance, Beggary and
Con-

Contempt. And, in my Mind, when a Man has arriv'd to the Title of a Gamester, he should be shun'd like one that had the Plague, a Perjurer, or a Sodomite.

I HAVE heard a Story of a young Gentleman that was just come to a plentiful Estate, who came out of the Country to take the Diversions of the Town. These sort of Gentlemen soon draw the Flies about them, in hopes to suck their Nourishment from them. An old Sharper, that, from being ruin'd by Gaming, had after made a Trade of it; had insinuated himself into the Acquaintance of this Gentleman, in order to fleece him. He introduc'd him among a Gang of the Fraternity, and extol'd their genteel way of living up to the Skies. There, Sir, said he, observe such and such a Person, what Figures they make, and all without paying Taxes, or Parish Duties. They never concern themselves with War or Peace, Whig or Tory, who's out, or who's in, but ever lead this Life with Pleasure and Satisfaction.

THE young Gentleman, who happen'd to be wiser than he could have wish'd, smartly reply'd to him. You have taken
some

some Pains (said he) to describe these Gentlemen, and their Fortunes. It is true I see, they go well dress'd, and seem to want nothing. These, you say, have thriv'd by Gaming; but, good Sir, I believe if you could shew me those that have been undone by it, I believe the Army would be so large, that you would hardly find General Officers among the Fortunate to stand at the Head of them.

THIS Answer gave the Sharper no Hopes of succeeding, therefore he left him off for an incorrigible Fellow, that would not be rul'd for his own Good.

THE never enough to be admir'd the Lord *Hallifax* says, in his Advice to his Daughter, if I am not mistaken, something on this Head, which I shall give you in his own Words, and then take Leave of this Branch of Thieves.

“ To Play sometimes to entertain
 “ Company, or to divert your self, is not
 “ to be disallow'd; but to do it so often
 “ as to be call'd a Gamester, is to be a-
 “ voided next to the Things that are
 “ most Criminal. It has Consequences of
 “ several Kinds not to be endur'd. It

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“ will

“ will engage into a Habits of Idleness,
 “ and ill Hours; draw you into ill mix’d
 “ Company, make you neglect your Ci-
 “ vilities Abroad, and your Business at
 “ Home, and impose into your Acquain-
 “ tance, such as will do you no Credit.
 “ If Men play deep, it will tempt the
 “ World to ask spiteful Questions, and
 “ make severe Reflections. And if the
 “ Ladies could see their own Faces upon
 “ an ill Game, at a deep Stake, they
 “ would certainly forbear any thing that
 “ could put their Looks under such vast
 “ Disadvantages.”

IT is some of these unhappy Gen-
 tlemen, I fear, that increase the Num-
 ber of our Robberies. But shewing an
 Evil without proposing some Cure, will
 be of little use. It ought to be the Busi-
 ness of the Wardens of every Parish to
 inspect into the Characters of those that
 have no visible Means of a Livelihood,
 and take Care of them accordingly.

OUR Plantations Abroad are always
 wanting Recruits; where the worst of
 Criminals, that go there, are put in a
 Way to get an honest Livelihood, if they
 can forget their old Wont; or if they
 cannot,

cannot, tho' Thievery is not punish'd with Death, they will find a Punishment sufficient to deter them from a second Crime; for a Thief is oblig'd to work till he has earn'd double the Sum he has stole, one Moiety to the Poor, and the other to the Person robb'd. Besides, we have Shipping that are able body'd Land Men (as they term them) will be ever acceptable: And, according to the old Saying, *The Sea and the Gallows refuse no Body*; small Numbers may be distributed in every Ship, and they have proper Discipline, which will prevent their corrupting the rest of their Crew. And I am apt to believe the Fear of such Proceedings, would prevail upon them, to seek some more honest Employment.

ANOTHER Reason of the Frequency of *Street Robberies*, is the Remisness or Corruption of the Watch, and as often want of Vigour and Youth; for you shall seldom see a Man under Fifty among them.

ONE Trick of the *Street-Robbers* has been to send one of their Gang seemingly drunk, to make a slight Quarrel with the Watch, who, upon the wave of a Lan-

thorn, come to each others Assistance, especially where they perceive but little Danger. The Gentleman-Thief, to make up the Quarrel, is resolv'd to treat them; so to some Night-House they go, (which is another Evil that should be cur'd) where the Watchmen are made drunk, their Business neglected, and an Opportunity given to the Thieves to prosecute their Trade with less Danger. Therefore, I think, it ought to be the Business of the Heads of the Parish to chuse out young stout honest Fellows for Watchmen, who, for a little better Allowance, would no doubt accept such an Employment.

THE King of the Night, as the Constables please to term themselves, should be a little more active in their Employments; but all their Business is to get to a Watch house and guzzle, till their time of going Home comes.

I DOUBT not but there may be found People in every Parish that would take it by Turns to inspect the Watch, and see that they did their Duty. And the fear of such Inspectors would certainly be one Means to make them more diligent.

I KNOW

I KNOW it has been propos'd the Watch should go arm'd, but I think it a very dangerous way to cure the Evil we are treating of, unless they were better regulated. For who knows but they may take it into their Heads to do the very thing which those Arms are given to prevent, or at least make them so insolent, that they will insult Gentlemen that are coming Home at an unseasonable Hour, which, I believe, happens to every one sometimes in their Lives. Their Staves they carry are sufficient to answer all their Purposes.

I THINK, in all probability, these Hints observ'd would be the assur'd Means of keeping our Streets safe at all Hours. I therefore shall make an End here, and to proceed on the Warning for Travellers, which was wrote by a condemn'd Person, but broke out of *Newgate* before his Execution, and is not yet taken. This Person I happen'd to have some Business with, and I desir'd him to do his Country all the good he could before his Death, that he might make Amends for the Ill. He told me that my Counsel was so good, that he had intended such a thing before I mention'd

tion'd it to him, but now he would be resolv'd on't. Two Days after his Escape I received the following Papers by the Penny-Post with this Epistle.

S I R,

“ I H A D prepar'd my self for Death
 “ after you parted with me, without
 “ neglecting the Means, if possible to
 “ live. By good Fortune I made my E-
 “ scape, as no doubt you have seen in
 “ the News Papers. I have since reflect-
 “ ed on my past Life, and will use my
 “ Endeavours to live honestly for the fu-
 “ ture. I have sent you those Papers I
 “ promis'd you in *Newgate*, with full
 “ Commission to put them to what Use
 “ you think fit. I shall ever remember
 “ the good Advice you gave me when I
 “ told you I had some Hopes of a Pardon,
 “ and am

Your most obedient Servant.

A Warning for Travellers, &c.

I A M the Son of a Parson, who gave me a tolerable Education, and that was all, but no Provision for Futurity. Most of my Sisters carry'd their Maintenance about

about them, but I had the whole World to provide for me. My Father was accounted a Man of Learning, but all that Learning could not teach me Honesty.

THE Rich, no doubt, think it a sad thing to be poor, and the Poor think it a fine thing to be rich; tho', to contradict what I say, I fancy those that are in no want think but little of those that are. Necessity is the Touch-stone of Honesty.

I KNOW one of my own Profession that us'd to say when he was poor, he thought of nothing but how to get Money, and when he was above Want, he was above being a Thief. However, now I have escap'd from *Newgate*, I intend, if it be possible, to live honestly; therefore as I have done my Country some Dis-service, I shall endeavour, by the following Lines, to do all in my Power to wipe off the Injuries I have done.

WHEN any Person's Business calls him into the Country, let him take but just Money enough to bear his Expences; or if he's oblig'd to send large Sums into the Country, the safest Way is to send it by the Carrier. For tho' in my Course of
Business

Business I have been inform'd of Money sent that Way, yet so much Time wou'd be taken in searching for it, that I never could assume Courage enough to attempt it, or I believe any one of my Fraternity.

IF you travel, never admit of any Stranger in your Company, if you can possibly avoid it. But if you find any one intrudes upon you, and will force himself into your Company, loiter by the Way till some chance Passenger comes up to you, and go his Pace till you come to the next Town.

WHEN you come into an Inn, don't be too readily acquainted with your Landlord; for tho' he may be honest, no doubt, yet I have known many of them Intrigue with the Highwaymen, and will be for getting out of you how far you travel, and which Way, which be sure keep to yourself. Keep the same Caution, with the Hostler, tho' certainly there's many honest among them; and if you can see your Horse eat his Corn, and look now and then if he has any Hay in his Rack, for 'tis some of their Customs to fill their Rack with Hay, and when your Back is turn'd, take it away again.

WHEN

WHEN you go out of your Inn, ride slow for half a Mile, and then you will perceive if any one passes you; and if he eyes you too much, be assur'd he's not right; then either go back, or stay for less suspected Company; but it is your Business to be cautious of them too. Ride at some little Distance if a single Man forces himself into your Company, notwithstanding the abovemention'd Cautions. After some time, tell him you heard of a Hue and Cry after a Highwayman in the last Town you came through, observe his Countenance, and if he expresses no concern there, you may be assur'd he's honest, or at least no Highwayman, for they are not the only Rogues that travel the Roads. But if they are Highwaymen, their Guilt cannot be hid; *for the Thief does fear each Bush an Officer.*

BUT if after all these Cautions you should be attack'd, if you can muster up so much Courage, tell them boldly you will sooner part with your Life than your Money, and 'tis ten to one if they don't leave you upon the Instant. I am or have been, when I follow'd that Calling, a Person of Spirit fit enough to go through

Stitch with it, but I have left my intended Prey with such an Answer, for every one is the Thieves Enemy.

ONE Evening, as I had scrap'd Acquaintance with a Man on the Road I intended to robb, I heard the hooting of an Owl, not then knowing what it was. I ask'd the Person what Noise that was: I fancy, answer'd the Man, 'tis some Hue and Cry. I made no more Words, but set Spurs to my Horse, and turn'd up a narrow Lane, to prevent the Pursuers finding me, for I had committed more Robberies than one that Day, though a good Distance from the Place where I was. I listen'd attentively some time, and soon discover'd the Cause of my Fear: But I lost my Design, for my Fellow Traveller got safe to his Inn, and, no doubt, hugg'd himself for so fortunate Escape.

I HAVE only made this Digression to acquaint the wary Traveller, that a little Courage will go a great way towards saving his Purse. But if you cannot summon up Spirit enough to look big, take out what Money you think fit, and give it the Thief candidly in shew, and with a seeming Satisfaction, declaring it is all you have, but whatever there is, he is very wellcome to it, for you shall soon be supply'd by some Friends that are coming after you. This will alarm him perhaps, and make him leave you upon the Instant. But if it does not,

not, and he seems resolute to search you; seem very willing, and if you have any Money hid privately, don't betray it, by seeming uneasie, crying out, or laying your Hand upon the Place where it is conceal'd; for I have more than once found out Money in conceal'd Places by the Apprehension of the Person, which I should never have found without. If you see a Person alight off his Horse, and seem to busy himself in settling his Furniture, do you alight and do the same, which will convince him that you are aware of him.

I HAVE known another Way prove successful in escaping the Land Pirates. When you are bid to stand, cry out, 'tis very hard to be robb'd twice in a Day, but that you have now nothing for them, but the Cloaths on your Back, and offer your self to be search'd willingly, which probably will do your Business, for Thieves have but little Time to lose; and tho' they seem dangerous People, yet I have robb'd several Days together without either Shot or Powder in Pistols: And if People would be a little resolute, there would be more taken than there is, especially if the Reward was punctually paid without any Drawbacks. It would be certainly an Encouragement to young brisk Fellows to make it their Business to hunt for them as they do their Prey.

I SHALL say no more on this Subject, but leave the rest to the Discretion of the Traveller, and proceed to the next Treatise.

A Warning to House-keepers, &c.

THE Season chiefly for breaking into Houses is during the Winter, and long Nights. And I would advise every House-keeper to have a Dog, whose barking might alarm all within, as well as the Thieves without: For whenever I went upon any such Expedition, we immediately desisted upon the barking of a Dog, as judging the House was alarm'd. But there's no being safe if you are betray'd within, which too often happens. And I have known that several of our Gang have hir'd themselves for Servants on no other Design than to facilitate the robbing of the House.

I WOULD advise all House-keepers never to take a Maid Servant, without a good Recommendation, out of a Waggon as they arrive in Town, for ten out of twenty are mere Cheats, and take that Method in appearing innocent Country Girls, to betray their Masters: Nay, should they be really Country Maids, and prove honest at first, they are liable to be corrupted.

BE

BE cautious of one that has too much Acquaintance, especially with the Men: For there are Setts of Fellows that make it their Business to gain upon the Inclinations of the Maids, who are susceptible of Love, to gain an Opportunity of robbing the House. Nay, I knew a Fellow hang'd for robbing a House that had secretly marry'd three and twenty Maid Servants in five Years, and robb'd every respective Houses; tho' this last Wife prov'd that *Hanging and Marriage went by Destiny*. Therefore if you have a Maid with many Sweethearts, the sooner you get rid of them the better. And if the wary House-keeper would be advis'd by me, when he or she is resolv'd to part with a Servant, let them go the Instant you resolve upon it, and rather give them a Month's Wages, than keep them to a Month's Warning, which is generally the Custom. For many Servants will do more Mischief in that Month, than perhaps ten times their Wages would come to. I do not mean this Method to be taken with every Servant, for no doubt but there's many of them honest.

IF you are oblig'd to keep a great many Servants, as in all Persons of Qualities Houses there is no avoiding it, let one whom you may confide in be watchful over the rest that may be last in Bed, and first up, and be careful about seeing their Candles out, for many dreadful Instances often happen'd in firing Houses

Houses by Sleepiness, Carelessness, or Drunkenness. And Servants very often think it no Breach of their Honesty to keep late Hours, and make merry at their Master's Expence.

CARE should be taken that Men and Maids should lye far off from one another, tho' they will join sometimes in spite of Caution, which very often produces Crimes unthought of at first.

A SMALL Bell to Window Shutters would be of admirable Use to prevent House-breakers, for they may be plac'd in such a manner, that the least stirring shall make them ring. Also beware of Chimney-Sweepers, for their early rising is to thieve as well as to sweep Chimneys. Any thing that lies in their Reach they whip into their Bags among their Soot, and then saves the Word.

THESE Things premis'd, if taken Care of, I am assur'd would prevent the Number of Criminals at the *Old Bailey*. I shall make an End of this Tragi-Comedy, with a Word or two concerning Shoplifts, which I shall call

A Caveat for Shop-keepers.

Beware of all Persons in Riding Hoods and Great Coats, or Cloaks, for sometimes Thieves have the Appearance of Gentlemen

lemen and Ladies, especially if more than one comes together; and whatever you shew them but one Piece at a time, and put the first away before you shew the second. Be cautious how you send Goods Home unpaid for, and more to strengthen that Caution, I shall relate to you a Story of my self, by way of Memorandum.

I O W N I have had some Knowledge in every Branch, where *Mercury* has presided. But one time I was very much put to it for Money, and put my Wit upon the Tenters to procure some; which I accomplish'd after this Manner. I went to a rich *Mercer's* Shop (or at least one noted for a great Trade, for there's no knowing now a-days what a Tradesman's worth, till he dies, or breaks) I cheapen'd some of the richest Goods in his Shop, and pitch'd upon a rich Piece of Damask flower'd with Silver, that came to thirty odd Pounds, and at the same time almost made a Bargain for another Piece of something lesser Value.

I O R D E R'D them to call a Coach, and send one of the Men with me to receive the Money; when we were in, I order'd him to go to Sir *Tho. Pe—r's* in such a Street. All the way we went, the Man was perswading me to have the other Piece that I cheapen'd, telling me it was a prodigious Pennyworth. When I came to the House, I knock'd at the Door, and a Maid-Servant came to it; but
before

before I spoke to her, I turn'd about to the *Mercer's* Man, and bid him fetch the other Piece, offering him at the same time the Coach; bu the said he could make as much Haste without it: So away went the Man. Then I ask'd the Maid if Sir *Thomas* was at Home. No, Sir, said the Maid, he's in the Country, which I knew as well as she did. I order'd the Coachman to drive to a Tavern that had a Passage into another Street, where I paid him, drank half a Pint in a hurry, and walk'd away with my Silk to my Lodging, for I did not know but they might have taken the Number the of the Coach. I shall take my leave, wishing this Admonition may be of use to my Country-Men.

F I N I S.



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